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Disarmament and non-proliferation education

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

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* A/67/150.
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II. Implementation of the recommendations by Member States

A. Replies received from Member States

Germany

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The Federal Government of Germany believes that information and transparency are fundamental to disarmament education, and it is convinced that they are key to encouraging citizen participation and activity on disarmament matters. By working through the media and annually publishing a report on progress on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation and the development of the capabilities of the Armed Forces, and a report on exports of military equipment, the Government of Germany is actively working to raise public awareness. This "awareness-raising" is supported by the Federal Government Commissioner for Disarmament and Arms Control.

In order to place such sensitive topics as arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation on the agenda of day-to-day parliamentary politics, the German Bundestag has established a subcommittee to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, called the Subcommittee on Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation. On the one hand, the Subcommittee scrutinizes and supports the Federal Government's actions in the field of disarmament policy, and on the other the Committee is an important institution raising awareness in the Bundestag and in the public sphere with regard to disarmament policy and its progress/drawbacks.

The Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (bpb)) is a government agency whose task is to promote civic education. In addition to its regular publications, this agency also publishes essays and books on disarmament matters.

There are three main types of educational institutions in Germany focusing on the study of peace, as follows:

1. Research groups at universities. Examples of research groups include the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (Ruhr-Universität Bochum), the Peace Research Group (Universität Konstanz) and the Carl Friedrich von Weiszäcker Centre for Science and Peace Research (Zentrum für Naturwissenschaft und Friedensforschung, Universität Hamburg), integrating the questions of the study of peace into the realm of natural sciences;

2. University departments. The second pillar is the education of young people through university courses. Some examples include the Lehrstuhl für Politikwissenschaften, Friedens- und Konfliktforschung at Augsburg University (department of political science with its main focus on the study of peace and conflict) with several courses on peace and conflict; the master's in peace research and international politics at the University of Tubingen; the master of Peace and Security Studies at the University of Hamburg; and the master of International Studies/Peace and Conflict Research at Technische Universität Darmstadt and Goethe University Frankfurt;

3. Independent foundations and think tanks. Think tanks include the Hessische Stiftung Friedens- und Konfliktforschung (Peace Research Institute

Frankfurt), the Institut für Friedensforschung und Sicherheitspolitik (Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy) and the Stiftung Entwicklung und Frieden (Commission on Global Governance). The political parties have political foundations that deal with disarmament and peace issues as well.

In addition, the training school of the Federal Foreign Office offers young diplomats from foreign countries the opportunity to take part in special lectures and seminars on disarmament matters. Recently, a delegation from the Sudan participated in a seminar on disarmament. Germany actively supports European Union seminars for young diplomats on disarmament and non-proliferation matters. Furthermore, the Government of Germany organizes study visits for young diplomats every year in Berlin under the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament, in cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

German officer training includes the topic of disarmament. The armed forces run two universities (Munich and Hamburg) where military officers obtain a civilian bachelor's or master's degree. The two institutions offer a broad spectrum of courses in the political and social sciences in which the study of peace, conflict and disarmament plays an important role. At the Military Academy of the German Armed Forces in Hamburg, senior officers receive higher education and training. Studies of disarmament, peace and conflict are on the agenda, too. The Federal College for Security Studies, Germany's highest-ranking interministerial institution for advanced education and training in the field of security policy, is identified with efforts to convey the basic idea of a comprehensive security concept both nationally and internationally. In the light of this basic idea, the curriculum regularly addresses the above-mentioned topics through a variety of modules.

In society as well, movements and organizations raise awareness of topics relevant to disarmament and arms control. In the ecclesiastic sphere, there is, for example, Pax Christi, an international Catholic peace movement, which was established originally to work towards reconciliation between the French and the Germans after the Second World War. In addition, with the support of the Government of Germany, many political foundations, such as the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, the Hans Seidel Foundation and the Heinrich Böll Foundation, devote their work to the topics of disarmament and arms control through seminars, publications and conferences, and also stimulate dialogue around those issues. The Federal Government is in regular close contact with those institutions. Moreover, commitment to disarmament and peace is rewarded in Germany by the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade (Friedenspreis des Deutschen Buchhandels). This is an international peace prize given yearly at the Frankfurt Book Fair in the Paulskirche in Frankfurt am Main which helps once again to raise awareness of such sensitive topics. It highlights the relevance of peace, disarmament and conflict resolution and shifts the public perspective to those points by honouring people from the public sphere or civil society for their work in those fields. The prize for 2012 was awarded to Liao Yiwu, a Chinese author, reporter, musician and poet.

In 2012 the Federal Government is underscoring the importance of disarmament by presenting an exhibition on landmines in the Federal Foreign Office, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.